



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD-981)  
FPO MIAMI 34091

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
ADMIN:CJB:rlh  
5750  
Ser 589  
18 September 1984

From: Commanding Officer, USS John Hancock (DD-981)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09 BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.  
20374  
Subj: 1983 COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAVINST 5750.1) for USS John Hancock (DD-981); SUBMISSION OF  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C  
Encl: (1) 1983 Chronology of Events  
(2) 1983 Command Narrative  
(3) Biography of CDR John P. Collins, Jr., USN

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.

  
J.P. COLLINS, JR

Command History  
USS John Hancock (DD-981)  
Chronology of Events, 1983

- 01 JAN Moored at Naval Station, Charleston, SC, CDR James M. Arrison III, Commanding Officer.
- 07 JAN Underway for transit to Pascagoula, MS, for scheduled nine month overhaul period at Ingalls Shipyard. Includes change of homeport.
- 10 JAN Moored, East Bank, Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula, MS.
- 25 MAR Moved by tugs to West Bank Floating Drydock, Ingalls Shipyard.
- 18 MAY Moved by tugs to East Bank, Ingalls Shipyard.
- 27 MAY CDR James M. Arrison III relieved by CDR John P. Collins Jr., as Commanding Officer of USS John Hancock (DD-981).
- 22 JUL CDR Larry W. Darling relieved by LCDR Robert J. Agnor as Executive Officer.
- 30 AUG Underway for post overhaul sea trials, Gulf of Mexico.
- 01 SEP Moored, East Bank, Ingalls Shipyard.
- 09 SEP Underway for transit to Port Everglades, FL. Overhaul complete. Change of Homeport to Charleston, SC.
- 12 SEP Moored, Port Everglades, FL, for port visit.
- 15 SEP Underway for transit to Charleston, SC.
- 16 SEP Moored, Naval Station, Charleston, SC.
- 21 SEP Underway to Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, SC.
- 21 SEP Moored, Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, SC.
- 22 SEP Underway to Naval Station, Charleston, SC.
- 22 SEP Moored, Naval Station, Charleston, SC.
- 23 SEP Underway for sea trials, Charleston OPAREA.
- 23 SEP Moored, Naval Station, Charleston, SC.
- 17 OCT Underway for transit to Nassau, Bahamas.
- 21 OCT Moored, Nassau, Bahamas, for port visit.
- 25 OCT Underway for transit to Charleston, SC.

- 28 OCT Moored, Naval Station, Charleston, SC.
- 28 NOV Underway for transit to VACAPES OPEREA for Helicopter Detachment Deck Landing Qualifications.
- 02 DEC Moored, Naval Station, Charleston, SC.
- 09 DEC Underway for transit to VACAPES OPAREA for tests of Experimental NATO SEA GNAT Chaff/Infrared Device.
- 19 DEC Moored, Naval Station, Charleston, SC
- 31 DEC Moored, Naval Station, Charleston, SC

## COMMAND NARRATIVE, 1983

The major event involving USS John Hancock (DD-981) in 1983 was a regularly scheduled overhaul period of nine months, completed at Ingalls Shipbuilders, Pascagoula, Mississippi. The overhaul required a change of homeport, and necessitated, as well, that those personnel living onboard be moved to berthing accommodations located at the shipyard.

Due in large measure to excellent pre-overhaul preparations, all overhaul work was completed, and sea trials successfully carried out over one month ahead of schedule.

Several significant changes in the command structure took place during this period: Commander, John P. Collins, Jr., assumed duties as Commanding Officer, and Lieutenant Commander, Robert J. Agnor, assumed duties as Executive Officer. Department head changes during the overhaul period included the Combat Systems Officer, Supply Officer, and Engineering Officer.

Equipment and systems capabilities which were added or underwent considerable change during the overhaul period are as follows: communications division received the Automated Single Audio System (ASAS) which permits rapid, electronic patching of communications equipment to user positions; engineering received the Halon 1301 firefighting system as a permanently installed part of the damage control suite, permitting the rapid extinguishment of uncontrollable fires; sonar division received the Passive Equipment Cabinet (PEC), which permits the passive localization of selected narrowband noise; and combat systems defensive posture was greatly enhanced by the addition of the MK23 Target Acquisition System (TAS), which permits long range search capability for defensive anti-air systems. Of great importance is the addition of the Vulcan-Phalanx Close In Weapons System (CIWS), a high cyclic rate automated machine gun designed primarily for defense against low flying missiles.

The focus of the post-overhaul period was preparation for refresher training, scheduled to begin in March, 1984, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as well as preparations which would lead to all necessary certifications in major mission areas. Training also received due attention, in response to the great changes in personnel, equipment and capabilities during the extensive overhaul.

John Hancock was selected as the test platform for an experimental combination chaff and infrared round, designated NATO SEA GNAT, and was utilized during a ten day period in December for these tests, carried out in conjunction with other sea and air assets. This was John Hancock's last underway period during 1983, remaining in homeport through the remainder of the year with Commander, John P. Collins, Jr., as Commanding Officer.